

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

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This is the Missouri Valley Conference

The Missouri Valley Conference, the nation's second-oldest NCAA Division I conference, continues to be a leader in college athletics and is one of the nation's most progressive conferences, celebrating its 115th season in 2021-22.

For the first time in more than three decades, the Conference is serving its membership with a new leader as Jeff Jackson was introduced in March 2021 as the league's 10th commissioner. A visionary, Jackson has more than 30 years of coaching and athletics administration experience and will guide the MVC through an ever-changing collegiate landscape that has undergone significant changes in recent months. Despite the tumultuous terrain, Conference philosophy has not changed, as the league and its member institutions will continue to provide robust opportunities for student-athletes.

An historic period, which began with a pandemic that forced the cancellation of all intercollegiate competitions and MVC Championships on March 13, 2020, and then necessitated a shift of all MVC fall competition to the spring, was met with historic results as for the first time in league history the Conference had "Sweet 16" appearances in men's basketball, women's basketball, men's soccer, and baseball during the same season. The MVC had multiple bids in the NCAA Championship in men's basketball (2), women's basketball (2), softball (2), and baseball (2) last year. Only the ACC, American, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC, Pac-12 and MVC earned multiple bids in men's basketball, women's basketball, softball, and baseball in 2020-21.

Notably, the 2021-22 season is also historic as it marks both the 30th anniversary of women's sports under the MVC umbrella as well as the 50th anniversary of Title IX, a federal civil rights law passed in 1972 that protects opportunities for women.

The Valley brand remains very strong, both regionally and nationally, and the great athletic tradition of the Conference remains a compelling force in recruiting student-athletes and in marketing all the MVC programs. League members have worked together to focus on common goals and objectives, placing a high value on league harmony, while continuing to invest in athletic programs to compete at the highest level.

Men's basketball continues to be the engine that drives Valley athletic programs. In 2020-21, for the first time since 2016, the Missouri Valley Conference had two teams in the NCAA Tournament field as Loyola (8 seed) and Drake (11 seed) represented the league. Both Drake (vs. Wichita State) and Loyola (vs. Georgia Tech) won their first games. MVC teams are now 12-1 in their first game in the NCAA Tournament dating back to 2012. In the Second Round, Loyola knocked off top-seeded Illinois to reach the Sweet 16, marking the 12th Sweet 16 appearance for an MVC member since 1985. With that win,

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1907 Jan. 12 — First meeting of representatives of five universities in Kansas City, Mo.	1945 Wichita University (now Wichita State University) admitted.	July 1 — J. Douglas Elgin was appointed as Commissioner.
Feb. 16 — Second meeting in Kansas City. Washington University of St. Louis, University of Iowa, University of Missouri and University of Kansas organized as charter members. University of Iowa and University of Nebraska tied in football in the league's first season.	1947 Washington (Mo.) withdrew. Bradley and Detroit admitted. Creighton withdrew.	1990 March 8 — Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State) admitted.
March 15 — Drake University, University of Nebraska and Iowa State College were admitted.	1950 University of Houston admitted.	1991 Feb. 14 — University of Northern Iowa admitted.
April 1 — Official name adopted, Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association, at first meeting of the Association. Constitution, bylaws and rules also adopted. Clarence Erwin McClung of Kansas was named secretary. Athletic participation was limited to three years and required a year's residence prior to eligibility for varsity competition.	1952 Bradley and Drake withdrew.	1992 July 1 — Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference (women's programs of MVC schools) merged with the Missouri Valley.
May — The first conference track championship meet was held in Kansas City.	1955 Bradley and Drake readmitted.	1993 Nov. 4 — University of Evansville admitted.
Nov. 10 — The Missouri Valley basketball league was formed with Washington University of St. Louis, University of Missouri and University of Kansas constituting a southern division and University of Nebraska, Iowa State College and Drake University comprising a northern division. A championship series between the northern and southern division winners was held.	1956 Cincinnati and North Texas State admitted.	1996 June 30 — University of Tulsa withdrew.
1911 May 26 — University of Iowa withdrew.	1957 Norvall Neve was appointed as Commissioner. Oklahoma (A&M) State withdrew.	1997 Aug. 26 — Charter class of MVC Hall of Fame announced. Inductees included Larry Bird (INS); Hersey Hawkins (BU); Ed Macauley (SLU); Oscar Robertson (UC); Dave Stallworth (WSU); Wes Unseld (UofL) and Henry Iba (OSU).
1912 Dec. 26 — Kansas State University was admitted.	1960 University of Houston withdrew.	2001 March 30-April 1 — The Valley hosts the 2001 Women's Final Four at Savvis Center. The sold-out event represents the first NCAA Division I women's tournament action ever hosted in the city of St. Louis.
1918 Dec. 5 — University of Oklahoma was admitted.	1963 University of Louisville admitted.	2005 April 2-4 — The Missouri Valley Conference hosts the 2005 NCAA Men's Final Four at the Edward Jones Dome.
Dec. 13 — Grinnell College (Iowa) was admitted.	1966 Memphis State admitted.	2007 League celebrates Centennial, joining the Big Ten (1896) as the first Division I athletic conference to reach 100 years.
1919-20 University of Nebraska suspended.	1969 Cincinnati withdrew. DeWitt T. Weaver appointed Commissioner.	2009 League hosts Women's Final Four at Scottrade Center.
1924 Dec. 6 — Oklahoma (A&M) State was admitted.	1970 West Texas State and New Mexico State admitted.	2013 March - Creighton withdrew.
1925 Dec. 4-5 — Arthur E. Eilers was appointed permanent secretary of the athletic directors' association.	1972 DeWitt T. Weaver resigned. Mickey Holmes was appointed Commissioner.	April 19 - Loyola University Chicago admitted.
1928 University of Missouri, Iowa State College, University of Oklahoma, University of Kansas and Kansas State University withdrew to form separate conference (Big 6). Creighton University admitted.	1973 Memphis State withdrew.	2017 April - Wichita State withdrew.
1932 Butler University admitted.	1974 Saint Louis withdrew. North Texas State withdrew. Southern Illinois admitted.	July 1 - Valparaiso University admitted.
1934 Butler withdrew. The University of Tulsa and Washburn University (Kansas) were admitted.	1975 University of Louisville withdrew.	MVC celebrates 25th anniversary of the incorporation of women's athletics into the Conference.
1937 Saint Louis University admitted.	1976 March — Indiana State and Creighton admitted.	2020 MVC conducts year-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of the men's basketball tournament in St. Louis.
1939 Grinnell College (Iowa) withdrew.	1979 May 1 — Mickey Holmes resigned as Commissioner.	2021 July 1 — Jeff Jackson was appointed as Commissioner, replacing Doug Elgin who retired after 33 years.
1941 Washburn University (Kansas) withdrew.	July 1 — David Price appointed as Commissioner.	Sept. 28 - Conference announces Belmont University will be admitted, effective July 1, 2022.
	1980 June 19 — Illinois State University admitted.	
	1981 June 30 — David Price resigned as Commissioner.	
	Sept. 1 — Richard D. Martin was appointed as Commissioner.	
	1985 June 30 — Richard D. Martin resigned as Commissioner.	
	July 1 — James A. Haney was appointed as Commissioner. The Missouri Valley Conference offices relocated from Tulsa, Okla., to St. Louis, Mo.	
	1986 Jan. 1 — The sport of football was dropped as a Conference championship sport.	
	July 1 — West Texas State University withdrew.	
	1988 April 15 — James A. Haney resigned as Commissioner.	

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MVC teams are now 3-6 against No. 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament (UNI beat Kansas in 2010 and Wichita State beat Gonzaga in 2013.)

The league has now combined for 20 wins in the NCAA Tournament in the past eight NCAA championships and has earned multiple bids 16 times since 1994. Loyola finished the season ranked No. 12 in the coaches poll, while both Drake and Loyola spent time ranked in the Associated Press poll during the season, marking the first time since 2014-15 that two league teams had been ranked in the Top 25 during the same season. Cameron Krutwig of Loyola earned the MVC's Larry Bird Trophy, was named a CoSIDA Second Team Academic All-American and was also an AP Third Team All-America pick. Over the course of his career, he guided the Ramblers to 99 wins, three postseason berths and three conference titles. The Ramblers swept the MVC regular-season and tournament titles this past season.

The State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship – affectionately known as Arch Madness – continues to be a spectacular showcase for the league, and the MVC has entered an agreement with Enterprise Center (formerly known as Scottrade Center) that will keep Arch Madness in St. Louis through at least 2024. The tournament will celebrate its 46th anniversary overall in 2022, and it will be the 32nd-straight season the event has been held in St. Louis. Only the Big East Conference (in New York City) has had a longer continuous run at a single site.

While the success of men's basketball has received the greatest attention, the overall performance of league teams in virtually every sport continues to raise the national profile of the Conference.

In women's basketball, The Valley sent a total of six teams to the postseason as Missouri State and Bradley appeared in the NCAA field, Drake, Illinois State and UNI in the WNIT and Loyola in the WBI. The six teams tied for the second most in league history (1999 and 2010). The Conference also set a new league record for the highest RPI/NET conference ranking (7th). The league also saw five teams in the NET Top 100 for the second-straight season. This was the third time in the last four NCAA tournaments the MVC has placed two teams in the field. Missouri State made the program's 5th Sweet 16 appearance, earning The Valley's eighth Regional Semifinal appearance. Missouri State was ranked 14th in the final USA Today/WBCA Coaches Poll. MSU's final ranking is the program's highest since finishing fourth in 2001. UNI advanced to the WNIT semifinals for the first time in program history. The Panthers' appearance was the 8th WNIT semifinal appearance by a Valley program and first since Illinois State reached the semis in 2011.

In baseball, for the 26th time in league history, multiple MVC baseball teams earned NCAA bids as MVC regular-season and tournament champion DBU was joined by at-large selection Indiana State. The Patriots have won 40-plus games for seven-straight seasons which is the longest active streak in the nation. DBU won the Fort Worth Regional, making the program's second trip to the NCAA Super Regionals. It was the sixth Super Regional trip for the MVC and first since Missouri State in 2017. DBU was one win away from making The Valley's 20th College World Series appearance and first since Missouri State in 2003.

In softball, the MVC had two teams qualify for the NCAA Tournament as Southern Illinois won the MVC Championship and UNI earned an at-large bid. It marked the 13th time in program history that SIU made an NCAA Tournament appearance, and it was its third NCAA Regional appearance in five years after a regular season in which it finished with a No. 45 RPI and totaled 11 top-100 wins. The UNI softball team earned the programs first at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament and went 1-2 at the Columbia (Mo.) regional, defeating in-state rival Iowa State for its win. Illinois State, meanwhile, won the league's regular-season crown. UNI's Sammy Bunch earned Second Team All-America honors from Softball America and First Team honors

from Justin's World of Softball.

In men's soccer, Missouri State had another remarkable campaign that featured its second-straight season with at least 12 wins and claiming both the MVC regular-season and tournament championships while earning its fifth trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Bears advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in program history. Missouri State finished the season 12th in the final United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll. The Missouri Valley Conference placed eight players on the 2020 CoSIDA Academic All-District team. Missouri State's Kyle Hiebert and Josh Dolling were selected as United Soccer Coaches All-Americans. Hiebert was also named the United Soccer Coaches National Scholar Player of the Year and the CoSIDA Academic All-America® Team Member of the Year.

In volleyball, Illinois State won its second-straight MVC Tournament title with a 3-1 win over Loyola. It marked the first time a host school won the MVC tourney since Wichita State in 2013. The Redbirds also became the first team to win back-to-back titles since Wichita State won the 2015 and 2016 tournaments. This year marked the first time since 2014 only one Valley team made the NCAA field. Drake's Haley Bush was named an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American, becoming the first player in program history to earn All-American honors.

Meanwhile, the success of The Valley television package is one of the great stories in the league. The MVC Television Network has blossomed into a revenue-generating vehicle and The Valley's most visible marketing tool. Also, the Conference continues to be proactive in upgrading the production and marketing of both institutionally produced and Conference-produced events.

The summer of 2015 yielded two major announcements on the TV front, as ESPN and the Missouri Valley Conference announced a 10-year extension to their current media rights agreement that will provide increased coverage of Conference events across ESPN platforms through 2023-24. As part of the deal – which continues a business relationship that began in 1986 – ESPN, the Missouri Valley Conference and its 10 institutions will work jointly to develop in-house production capabilities at each campus that will provide significant national coverage for multiple sports on ESPN3 or ESPN+ and hands-on educational opportunities for students.

Additionally, CBS Sports and the MVC are in a multi-year agreement to televise Valley basketball games on the CBS Television Network and CBS Sports Network. The deal, which began in 2015-16 and continues through 2023-24, is through a sublicense agreement with ESPN. CBS Sports has televised the men's basketball tournament final since 2006.

In 2010, The Valley took a major step toward ensuring current revenues in television media and tournament sponsorship sales would be guaranteed in future years when it announced a 10-year partnership with Learfield Sports. The Jefferson City, Missouri-based company has the exclusive sales and marketing rights to MVC assets that include championships and television advertising. In June 2016, the MVC and Learfield Sports extended that partnership through 2023-24, concurrent with the league's contract with ESPN.

Notably, the 2016 men's basketball tournament marked the return of State Farm Insurance as the event's title sponsor. The Valley remains the only college athletics conference that State Farm sponsors, and State Farm has been a sponsor of the Conference since 1984, first as an advertiser on league TV games.

The Valley has been aggressive in hosting NCAA events in St. Louis. From 1998-2010, the MVC served as host for a staggering nine NCAA tournament events in that 13-year period, which has made St. Louis one of the most frequent stops on the NCAA Tournament trail. The Valley hosted Women's Final Fours in 2001 and 2009 and the Men's Final Four in 2005. Most recently, The Valley hosted an NCAA regional in Kansas (2019), and before the COVID-19 pandemic forced



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the cancellation of post-season basketball tournaments, the Conference was to host a first- and second-round event in St. Louis in 2020. The league will host a first- and second-round event in St. Louis at Enterprise Center in March 2026.

The seeds for the creation of the Conference were planted by eight administrators representing five institutions, who met at the Midland Hotel in Kansas City, Mo., on Jan. 12, 1907. The five schools which formed the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association were Washington University of St. Louis, and the state universities of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Two months after the initial meeting, two more schools – Drake University and Iowa State College – were admitted.

In the fall of 1907, basketball became the first competitive sport. Today, the Missouri Valley Conference sponsors the following sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country and track & field (indoor and outdoor), men's and women's

golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

While The Valley no longer sponsors football (it did from 1907-85), seven league members compete in the sport at the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) level as Illinois State, Indiana State, Missouri State, UNI and Southern Illinois play in the 11-member Missouri Valley Football Conference (with North Dakota, North Dakota State, South Dakota, South Dakota State, Western Illinois and Youngstown State). That league competed as the Gateway Conference from 1985-2007. Drake and Valparaiso play non-scholarship football in the Pioneer Football League.



Jackie Stiles of Missouri State finished her career as the all-time Division I leading scorer.

This season, the league will conduct its 110th outdoor track and field championship, its 67th baseball tournament, and its 83rd golf championship for the men. Those programs, plus other current sponsored sports of cross country (63 years), indoor track (71), men's soccer (31), women's soccer (25), and swimming and diving (28), have helped solidify The Valley as one of the nation's most respected conferences.

Athletic accomplishments include four NCAA national basketball championships, 18 trips to the NCAA Final Four, a 1989 national baseball championship and 19 College World Series qualifiers. The league owns a total of 32 post-season national team championships, including two men's basketball crowns in 2015 (Evansville-CIT; Loyola-CBI). In 2001, Missouri State added to The Valley women's accomplishments, as the Lady Bears advanced to the Women's Basketball Final Four in St. Louis. Creighton (2004) and Missouri State (2005) have claimed national championships (WNIT) in women's basketball. MSU also has a 1992 NCAA Women's Final Four appearance, while eight women's basketball teams have reached the WNIT semifinals, most recently UNI in 2021.

Indeed, the inclusion of women's programs under The Valley banner has provided a boost. The Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference – which began in 1982 – merged with The Missouri Valley Conference and was unveiled as part of the new conference on July 1, 1992.

During the 2017-18 academic year, the Missouri Valley Conference and its member institutions conducted a year-long celebration of the first 25 years of women's sports competition in the MVC; focusing attention on current women student-athletes in the Conference and

honoring MVC history and the pioneers of women's athletics. Top vote-getters in each sport included Rachel Tejada of Illinois State (soccer); Sue Daggett Miller of Illinois State (cross country); Molly O'Brien of UNI (volleyball); Jackie Stiles of Missouri State (basketball); Sherry Zhang of Southern Illinois (swimming & diving); Danielle Lemek of Bradley (golf); Liina Suurvarik of Illinois State (tennis); Tara Oltman of Creighton (softball); Holli Hyche of Indiana State (track); and Kylie Hutson of Indiana State (field).

While the inclusion of women's sports under a comprehensive athletic umbrella is a recent development in the league's storied history, over the years, Valley student-athletes and coaches have become household names during the league's illustrious history, both during their collegiate careers and, for some, professional careers.

In fact, The Valley began honoring that tradition in the summer of 1997, when the Conference began its athletics Hall of Fame. Hersey Hawkins of Bradley, Larry Bird of Indiana State, Wes Unseld of Louisville, Coach Henry Iba of Oklahoma State, Dave Stallworth of Wichita State, Ed Macauley of Saint Louis, and Oscar Robertson of Cincinnati were members of the initial induction class. Currently, more than 125 former players, coaches and alums dot the league's Hall of Fame.

Men's basketball, perhaps, has the league's most storied tradition, boasting the likes of Hall of Famers Bird and Robertson as former players, which includes a list of more than 260 drafted to the NBA, but The Valley has also produced national-caliber student-athletes in its other sponsored sports. In 2001, Missouri State's Jackie Stiles became the first Valley woman to earn the Honda-Broderick Cup, given to the nation's top female collegiate student-athlete. In June of 2016, Stiles was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

In the sport of track and field, Indiana State's Holli Hyche captured seven national sprint titles in the early 1990s, Southern Illinois' Darrin Plab won back-to-back NCAA outdoor high jump titles in 1991 and 1992, SIU's Brittany Riley became the World-record holder in the weight throw in 2007, and Kylie Hutson of Indiana State swept both the indoor and outdoor pole vault titles in 2009 and in 2010. Southern Illinois' Jeneva McCall (three NCAA individual championships), Illinois State's Tim Glover (back-to-back javelin championships in 2011 and 2012), Indiana State's Felisha Johnson (indoor weight throw in 2011 and 2013), and Southern Illinois' DeAnna Price (hammer throw in 2015 and 2016) are the most recent multi-year NCAA champions in the league's highly decorated history in track & field. Meanwhile, Raven Saunders of Southern Illinois earned NCAA shot put titles in both the 2015 indoor and outdoor meets. In 2016, Price was named a semifinalist for the Bowerman Award. She became the second in Southern Illinois history to be a semifinalist, joining Jeneva McCall (2012) and is just the third in MVC history to be named a semifinalist for the Bowerman, joining McCall and Indiana State's Kylie Hutson (2010).

In the fall of 1997, Creighton's Johnny Torres was named the collegiate male soccer player of the year for a second-straight year, while SMU's Luchi Gonzalez (2001) and Tulsa's Ryan Pore (2004) have also earned a National Player of the Year honor in men's soccer. Meanwhile, Wichita State produced three national collegiate players of the year in baseball, including Joe Carter (1981), Phil Stephenson (1982) and Darren Dreifort (1993). All told, a total of 73 MVC individuals in its history have earned an NCAA title, while 48 have been tabbed National Player or Coach of the Year.

League members include Bradley, Drake, Evansville, Illinois State, Indiana State, Loyola Chicago, Missouri State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, and Valparaiso. Dallas Baptist (DBU) is an affiliate member for baseball; Little Rock is an affiliate member in women's swimming and diving; Stony Brook competes as an affiliate member in women's tennis; and SIU Edwardsville began its second stint as an affiliate member in men's soccer in 2021. And Belmont will join the league in July 1, 2022.

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School	Location	Population	Arenas (Capacity)
BRADLEY	Peoria, Ill.	176,297	Carver Arena (11,442)
DRAKE	Des Moines, Iowa	552,000	Drake Knapp Center (7,152)
EVANSVILLE	Evansville, Ind.	117,817	Ford Center (10,000)
ILLINOIS STATE	Bloomington-Normal	132,600	Redbird Arena (TBD, but 10,200, prior to renovation)
INDIANA STATE	Terre Haute, Ind.	60,316	Hulman Center (10,200)
LOYOLA	Chicago, Ill.	2,700,000	Gentile Arena (4,963)
MISSOURI STATE	Springfield, Mo.	168,568	JQH Arena (11,000)
UNI	Cedar Falls/Waterloo	106,000	McLeod Center (7,018)
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	Carbondale, Ill.	27,551	Banterra Center (8,339)
VALPARAISO	Valparaiso, Ind.	34,253	Athletics Recreation Center [ARC] (5,000)

(includes metro areas)

Missouri Valley Conference Mileage Chart

	B-N	CARB	CF	CHI	DSM	EVN	MOL	NASH	PEO	STL	SPI	T-H	VAL
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (ILL.)	XX	220	273	125	297	244	128	423	39	168	379	146	158
CARBONDALE (ILLINOIS)	220	XX	466	329	462	108	330	203	246	101	303	191	334
CEDAR FALLS (IOWA)	273	466	XX	291	112	509	150	655	240	367	472	417	347
CHICAGO (ILLINOIS)	125	329	291	XX	332	323	175	474	155	292	497	179	66
DES MOINES (IOWA)	297	462	112	332	XX	530	175	649	264	365	360	441	373
EVANSVILLE (INDIANA)	244	108	509	323	530	XX	359	153	272	171	382	121	273
MOLINE (ILLINOIS)	128	330	150	175	175	359	XX	538	90	258	405	268	194
NASHVILLE (TENNESSEE)	423	203	655	474	649	153	538	XX	445	309	431	261	441
PEORIA (ILLINOIS)	39	246	240	155	264	272	90	445	XX	173	384	179	195
ST. LOUIS (MISSOURI)	168	101	367	292	365	171	258	309	173	XX	212	170	319
SPRINGFIELD (MISSOURI)	379	303	472	503	360	382	405	431	384	212	XX	381	527
TERRE HAUTE (INDIANA)	146	191	417	188	441	121	268	261	179	170	381	XX	164
VALPARAISO (INDIANA)	158	334	347	66	373	273	194	441	195	319	527	164	XX

MVC - Geographically



Missouri Valley Conference Membership

- 110 Drake (1907-08 – 1950-51; 1956-57 – present)**
 72 Wichita State (1945-46 – 2016-17)
- 70 Bradley (1948-49 – 1950-51; 1955-56 – present)**
 62 Tulsa (1934-35 – 1995-96)
 56 Creighton (1928-29 – 1942-43; 1945-46 – 1947-48; 1976-77 – 2012-13)
- 47 Southern Illinois (1974-75 – present)**
45 Indiana State (1976-77 – present)
41 Illinois State (1980-81 – present)
 39 Washington (Mo.) (1907-08 – 1909-10; 1911-12 – 1946-47)
 36 Saint Louis (1937-38 – 1942-43; 1944-45 – 1973-74)
- 32 Missouri State (1990-91 – present)**
 Oklahoma State (1925-26 – 1956-57)
- 31 UNI (1991-92 – present)**
28 Evansville (1994-95 – present)
 21 Grinnell (1918-19 – 1938-39)
 Iowa State (1907-08 – 1927-28)
 Kansas (1907-08 – 1927-28)
 Missouri (1907-08 – 1927-28)
- 20 Nebraska (1907-08 – 1918-19; 1920-21 – 1927-28)
 19 North Texas State (1957-58 – 1974-75)
 16 West Texas State (1970-71 – 1985-86)
 15 Kansas State (1913-14 – 1927-28)
 13 New Mexico State (1970-71 – 1982-83)
 Cincinnati (1957-58 – 1969-70)
 11 Louisville (1964-65 – 1974-75)
 10 Houston (1950-51 – 1959-60)
- 9 Loyola (2013-14 – present)**
 Oklahoma (1919-20 – 1927-28)
 Detroit (1949-50 – 1956-57)
 8 Washburn (1934-35 – 1940-41)
 6 Memphis State (1967-68 – 1972-73)
- 5 Valparaiso (2017-18 – present)**
 4 Iowa (1907-08 – 1910-11)
 2 Butler (1932-33 – 1933-34)

Seven of 10 current (**bold**) MVC members were Gateway Conference members for their women's sports from 1983-92. Number reflects membership, inclusive of 2021-22.

Missouri Valley Conference Staff



Jeff Jackson Commissioner

On March 17, 2021, the Missouri Valley Conference Presidents Council introduced Jeff Jackson as the Conference's 10th commissioner. Jackson officially began his role with the league on July 1, 2021.

Jackson had worked in two Division I conference offices in the seven years prior and brings extensive basketball experience from a three-decade collegiate coaching career prior to his entry

into athletics administration in 2014. Jackson has also served as a member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee and NCAA Basketball Oversight Committee.

His impact on the Conference has been immediate. During Jackson's first 100 days, the Conference extended TV partnerships with LTN Global Communications and Tupelo Honey; The Valley established conference guidance on NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) and also entered into a partnership with industry-leading content and compliance software company INFLCR. With Jackson's guidance, the MVC also established a Sports Medicine Committee. On Sept. 28, the Conference announced it had expanded to 11 full-time members with the addition of Belmont University, effective July 1, 2022.

Most recently, he was the Executive Associate Commissioner of the Big 12 Conference. In his three years at the Big 12 Conference, Jackson had oversight of men's basketball and game management, working directly with the Conference's coaches, administrators, and officiating program; along with coordination of the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship.

Prior to the Big 12, Jackson spent four years as Big South Conference Deputy Commissioner. He oversaw the external operations, championships, and sports administration for the Conference – with a primary focus on men's and women's basketball. In addition, Jackson was responsible for operationalizing the Big South's strategic plan, serve as the liaison for the league's branding efforts and assist with television and broadcast matters.

Before joining the Big South, Jackson had a 30-year coaching career, which included seven years as Furman's head coach from 2006-13 and three seasons leading New Hampshire from 1996-99. In 2010-11, the New York, N.Y., native led the Paladins to their most successful campaign in two decades as Furman posted a 22-11 overall record, 12-6 Southern Conference mark and earned a berth in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament – the school's first postseason bid since 1991. Furman's 22 wins ranked as the second-most in school history and the most by a Paladin squad in 30 years. The 2010-11 squad also posted a win over South Carolina – Furman's first victory over the Gamecocks since 1979-80.

Prior to directing the Paladin program, Jackson served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Vanderbilt University for seven seasons from 1999-06. In 2004, the Commodores posted a 23-10 record and advanced to the NCAA "Sweet 16" with wins over Western Michigan and N.C. State before falling to eventual national champion Connecticut. That same year, he was named one of the top 25 college basketball recruiters in the country by Rivals.com after Vanderbilt's 2005 freshman class garnered national recognition by the service.

Jackson made his head coaching debut at New Hampshire after previous stints as an assistant coach at Stanford, Colorado State and St. Bonaventure.

Jackson graduated from Cornell in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and labor relations. He and his wife Carolyn, also a graduate of Cornell, have three children: Xavier, Jenai and Taylor.



Patty Viverito Sr. Assoc. Commissioner

Viverito is in her 30th season as senior associate commissioner at the Missouri Valley Conference and is in her 36th year directing the Missouri Valley Football Conference as its commissioner.

A Chicago native, Viverito was named the Missouri Valley Football's first commissioner in September of 1985. She led the conference (then known as the Gateway

Conference) to national prominence in the 1980s. The league, which sponsored nine women's sports and FCS football, saw its women's programs merge with their MVC men's counterparts in 1992.

At The Valley, Viverito's responsibilities have transitioned into working largely in an advisory capacity with the new Commissioner. She served as the Tournament Director of the 2001 and 2009 NCAA Women's Final Four.

Viverito currently serves as the FCS commissioners' representative on the NCAA Division I Council and Vice-Chair of the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee. A nationally respected administrator, Viverito recently completed a term on the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) Executive Committee and Chair of the FCS Subcommittee of the CCA. Previously, Viverito has served on the prestigious NCAA Executive Committee, the NCAA Council, the Division I Women's Basketball Committee and was chair of the NCAA Committee for Women's Athletics and Olympic Sports Liaison Committees. Additional national service includes the NCAA Championships Finance Working Group, NCAA Recruiting Task Force, the NCAA Women's Division I Basketball and Issues Committees, the NACWAA Board (two terms), the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Board, the NACDA Board, the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Board (two terms), multiple terms on NCAA Basketball and Football Officiating Committees, the NCAA Football Academic Working Group, and the NCAA Work/Life Balance Task Force. She currently serves on the Collegiate Women's Sports Awards Executive Committee, which is responsible for selecting the Honda Cup winner annually.

In 2015, Viverito received the Mel Narol Medallion for her service to NASO and the officiating community. She was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. In 1996, Viverito was recognized for her contributions to collegiate athletics, when she was selected as the NACWAA (National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators) Administrator of the Year. In addition, she received Professional Service Achievement Alumni Awards from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Northern Illinois University.

She has an extensive background in athletic marketing and administration, formerly serving as an account executive for the Tidewater Tides minor league baseball team and as special project director at the University of Texas at Austin from 1979 to 1981. At UT, she coordinated activities for the women's athletic program in the areas of promotion, sports information, fund-raising and event management. She also serves on the board of the St. Louis-based nonprofit social circus, Circus Harmony.

Viverito earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from Northern Illinois and her master's in sports management from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1994, she received the Harold J. VanderZwaag Distinguished Alumnus Award from Massachusetts.

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Married to Frank Viverito, President and Executive Director of the St. Louis Sports Commission, they have two sons: Gregory and Matthew. Favorite hobbies include tennis, pickleball, reading and flying trapeze, with son Matthew her coach for the latter.



Sherika Montgomery **Associate Commissioner/SWA**

Before coming to the MVC, Montgomery most recently served an Assistant Director of Enforcement (Investigations and Processing) at the NCAA. In her role at the national office, she was responsible for thoroughly and timely investigating and processing potential violations of NCAA legisla-

tion involving all three NCAA divisions and all sports. This included compiling and evaluating evidence of infractions, drafting necessary submissions, and presenting information and evidence to the NCAA Committee on Infractions. In addition to her enforcement responsibilities, Montgomery served as liaison to the inaugural NCAA Women's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group which provided an amplifying voice for the sport of women's basketball on key initiatives, legislation and various issues. Montgomery also served as chair of the NCAA People of Color Employee Engagement Group and was a member of the Women's Employee Engagement Group's Leadership Council.

Montgomery was at the Summit League from 2018-19, serving as Associate Commissioner for Governance and Compliance. She also served as Associate Athletic Director for Student Success at Winthrop University from 2017-18. Prior to her stint at Winthrop, Montgomery spent the previous seven years at the Big South Conference, including her final three as the Assistant Commissioner for Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator. While at the Big South Conference, Montgomery served as chair of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and was also a member of the inaugural NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity. She was named to the Top 25 Women in Higher Education and Beyond list by Diverse Education in 2016.

A former women's basketball student-athlete at Gardner-Webb University, Montgomery earned her master's degree in Sports Science and Pedagogy in May of 2011 and her Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management from the institution in 2009.

At the MVC, Montgomery will serve on the Conference management team as Senior Woman Administrator and will supervise the Conference championship program for most sports, including men's and women's basketball. This will encompass oversight of scheduling, officiating, game operations and staffing and/or supervising staff liaisons. Montgomery will provide primary staff support for Presidents Council, Joint Committee, Faculty Representatives and Athletic Administrators Committee meetings. Montgomery will oversee conference diversity, equity and inclusion matters, strategic planning efforts, membership initiatives and NCAA national matters.



Bryan Belt **Associate Commissioner,** **Business Affairs/CFO**

Bryan Belt joined the MVC in July of 2012 as Assistant Commissioner for Business Affairs. At the MVC, Belt ensures that appropriate financial controls are in place and applies sound techniques to all aspects of The Valley's financial matters. He is responsible for developing creative and effective financial strategies to help

The Valley achieve its conference goals and protect its assets.

Belt came to the MVC after previously serving as Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While at SIUE, Belt served his alma mater in a number of capacities. He served as head coach of the men's and women's tennis programs as well as an assistant softball coach at SIUE.

His duties as Associate Athletics Director included budget planning, financial aid for student-athletes and an active role in the athletic department's future initiatives. Belt oversaw the day-to-day financial operations, as well as the department's concessions operations. Belt also supervised all areas of event operations including sports information.

Belt graduated from SIUE in 1993 with bachelor degrees in recreation and accounting and worked 12 seasons as an assistant coach for the softball program. Belt also previously worked as the director of operations for the St. Louis Ambush, a local professional soccer franchise, from 1994 to 1996. He spent three years in the administrative accounting department at SIUE before moving into his role as the Assistant AD.

He and his wife Melanie have three children: Bradford, Chandler and Patrick.



Mike Kern **Associate Commissioner**

Kern is in his 31st year serving the membership. In a dual role, he serves as Associate Commissioner for the Missouri Valley Football Conference, and has been with the MVFC since 1991.

For The Valley, he oversees all media relations for the 17-sport league with his primary communications duties focused on men's basketball. Kern also assists in building the league basketball schedule and with management of the MVC's in-house television network. Kern is also involved in strategic planning for the conference and also helps coordinate the league's marketing and promotions efforts in conjunction with MVC Sports Properties. Additionally, he is the staff liaison for baseball and handles media relations for men's and women's golf.

Kern has been the Chair of the MVC Hall of Fame Committee since 2016. A total of 139 former administrators, coaches, student-athletes and contributors have been inducted into the MVC Hall of Fame since its inception in 1997. Kern was instrumental in introducing a Veteran's Committee as part of the Hall of Fame in 2019.

Kern has been instrumental in helping launch and implement the league's new #OneValley social justice initiative and served with a number of other MVC staff members on the league's COVID-19 Working Group during the early stages of the pandemic.

He has served as Media Coordinator for 10 NCAA events, which has included two Women's Final Fours and the 2005 Men's Final Four. He was assistant tournament manager for the 2008 First and Second Round NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and has served as assistant media coordinator for five other NCAA basketball events. He

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has also served as timeout coordinator for multiple NCAA Basketball tournaments. Kern has been a member of the prestigious NCAA Final Four Media Coordination Committee since 2016.

Kern has been Media Coordinator for the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship since 2004 and also served as Media Coordinator for the MVC Women's Basketball Championship for 12 seasons prior. Counting MVC and NCAA events through 2021, Kern has been media coordinator or assistant media coordinator for a total of 70 basketball tournaments.

In addition to communications duties with the Missouri Valley Football Conference, Kern oversees the MVFC's merchandising and licensing program, and the in-house television package, which includes scheduling and clearances, plus the hiring of on-air talent.

The 2021 football season is his ninth as FCS Managing Director, and in that capacity Kern administers an FCS website, oversees a national awards program, serves as a liaison to the NCAA, and monitors FCS branding activities, including a weekly "notebook" distributed to participating FCS schools and media. He currently also serves as the chair of the CoSIDA FCS Management Advisory Committee. In 2016 he was named to a 13-person Board of Directors charged with planning the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the birth of college football.

In 2002, he received the St. Louis Business Journal's annual award for "Best Use of Technology in Sports" as he introduced the league's on-line statistical reporting system used for the league's Olympic sport programs.

Kern, 54, earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Missouri in 1988 and a master's degree in communications management from league member Missouri State in 1990. A St. Louis native, Kern served as a sports information graduate assistant for two years at MSU and as a student assistant at Missouri as an undergraduate.

His publications and features have earned numerous CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) awards. He has a total of 36 national top-5 awards for his publications work, which includes 16 "Best in the Nation" citations. The league's 2020-21 men's and women's basketball guide was judged as Best in the Nation.

He is a member of CoSIDA, ConSIDA (Conference Sports Information Directors of America), the Football Writers Association of America, the Baseball Writers Association of America, and the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA). He received a CoSIDA 25-Year Award in the summer of 2017 for 25 years of service to the organization, and in 2017-18, he served on the USBWA Board of Directors. For CoSIDA, he serves on the Professional Development and Education Committee (previously known as Programming).

Kern and his wife Terri have four adult children and two dogs.



Jack R. Watkins
Associate Commissioner

Jack R. Watkins Jr. is in his 30th season at the Missouri Valley, having served in media services, advertising/marketing, television and championship administration capacities during his tenure.

Watkins, 58, has served as tournament director for the MVC men's basketball championship in St. Louis since 2013, and completed a four-year stint as the staff liaison for the sport of baseball, serving as director of the postseason tournament, in 2016.

In addition, he is the primary staff contact with MVC Sports Properties, which handles television advertising and sponsorship sales for The Valley. He also assists with the promotional campaigns for league championships.

As the staff contact for ESPN, CBS Sports, FOX and NBC Sports Chicago, he coordinates contract negotiation, production, hiring

on-air talent and clearances for the MVC Television Network on FOX Sports Midwest, NBC Sports Chicago and ESPN3/ESPN+.

As the Conference liaison for The Valley on ESPN – the league's co-branded digital network involving productions for ESPN3 and ESPN+ – he coordinated the infrastructure build-out on each campus and the subsequent launch of institutional production units which has produced nearly 3,600 exclusive live events since its launch in 2015-16.

During his tenure at The Valley, he has been a media coordinator for the 1993, 1998 and 1999 NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Midwest Regionals and the 2002 NCAA First and Second Rounds in St. Louis, and served as a television time-out coordinator a total of 13 times for the NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship and once for the NCAA Women's Basketball Division I Championship.

Watkins served as tournament manager for four NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship events – 2013 Second and Third Rounds in Kansas City, 2014 Second and Third Rounds in St. Louis, 2016 First and Second Rounds in St. Louis and 2019 Midwest Regional in Kansas City. He was also scheduled to handle tournament manager responsibilities for the 2020 First and Second Rounds in St. Louis prior to its cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the summer of 2020, he spearheaded the St. Louis effort to land another NCAA men's basketball event, and in October of that year, The Valley was awarded the 2026 NCAA First/Second Rounds at Enterprise Center.

During his 11 years as the MVC men's basketball publicity contact, Watkins earned "Best in the Nation" recognition for his 1997, 2000 and 2002 MVC hoops guides from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) conference publications committee, and the 2001 and 2003 MVC yearbooks earned "Best in the Nation" for their cover design.

A native of Sikeston, Mo., Watkins became the 14th recipient of the Katha Quinn Award – presented for service to sportswriters who cover college basketball – from the 800-member United States Basketball Writers Association in April 2003.

On November 14, 2021, Watkins is to be enshrined into the State of Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, joining former MVC Commissioner Doug Elgin and current Senior Associate Commissioner Patty Viverito as Valley staffers who have been so recognized.

A 1985 University of Missouri-Columbia journalism graduate, he served assistant sports information director at Kansas State University during the 1986-87 school year, coordinating media services for the sports of volleyball, men's basketball and baseball.

From 1988 to 1992, he was assistant sports information director at the University of Missouri, handling publicity for the sports of volleyball, wrestling, men's basketball, women's gymnastics and baseball. While at Missouri, he received 10 publications awards from CoSIDA and served as media coordinator for five Big Eight Conference championship events and an NCAA Gymnastics Regional in 1992.

A member of the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA), Watkins and his wife Genny live in Chesterfield, Mo., and are the parents of the late Katherine I. Watkins.

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Ryan Davis **Assistant Commissioner,** **Communications**

Ryan Davis enters his sixth year with the Missouri Valley Conference as Assistant Commissioner for Communications.

He came to the MVC after working 10 years as Assistant Commissioner for Communications at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, where he orchestrated media relations efforts for the

league's 18 sports. Davis also handled assistant commissioner duties for four single-sport conferences, managing 36 institutions across 11 different states. Prior to his 10-year stint at the HCAC, Davis was an anchor and producer for WXLW ESPN 950 AM in Indianapolis, Ind., for two years.

At the Missouri Valley Conference office, Davis is the primary media relations contact for baseball, volleyball, men's soccer and women's basketball. To that end, he'll handle day-to-day, weekly and championship media relations duties for assigned sports, including pre-event releases, game recaps, statistical upkeep and record keeping, media guide content and design, championship press kits and website maintenance.

In addition, he assists with the league's in-house television package, including education of on-air talent in preparation for MVC telecasts, manages the league's Scholar-Athlete Spotlight, and is integral in the league's new #OneValley social justice initiative. He is also the primary sport liaison for swimming and diving at the league office.

He is an active member of CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America), sitting as the Goodwill and Wellness Committee's Community Service Coordinator and serving as a member of the Academic All-America Committee. His MVC Women's Basketball Media Guide has earned "Best in the Nation" or "Best Cover" honors five times and has also won other publication honors from the organization. He also has a pair of Fred S. Stabley CoSIDA Writing Contest honors.

A native of Greenwood, Ind., Davis is a 2004 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington, holding a degree in Sports Communications. He and his wife Kristin live in Kirkwood, MO and have a son Nolan (9), daughter Caroline (6) and a puppy named Rosie.



Jimmy Heisner **Assistant Commissioner,** **Compliance**

Jimmy Heisner joined the MVC in July 2015 and is integrally involved with all aspects of the MVC compliance program, including researching the application of NCAA legislation and providing interpretations and advice to member institutions; preparing rules education materials; processing institutional violation reports;

overseeing the National Letter of Intent (NLI) program; assisting with the review of conference-administered waivers (e.g., medical hardship); and updating compliance-related portions of the MVC website. Other responsibilities will include providing support to a variety of MVC governance groups (e.g., committees, coaches groups); significant involvement with the management of the Conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; and assisting with championships administration as needed.

Heisner came to the MVC after a six-year stint at the University of North Florida, where he served as the Assistant Athletic Direc-

tor for Compliance. Prior to that, Heisner had two short stints as a compliance intern with the University of Northern Illinois and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee athletic departments.

Heisner, a native of St. Louis, holds a Juris Doctor Degree and a Sports Law Certificate from the National Sports Law Institute upon graduating from Marquette University Law School in May of 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame, where he served as Head Football Manager for Personnel in his final two years in South Bend.

Jimmy resides in the City of St. Louis with his wife Laura and three sons (James, August and Phillip).



Kirsten McCowan **Assistant Commissioner**

McCowan joined the MVC in September 2021 as an Assistant Commissioner.

Before joining the MVC, McCowan was at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference since July 2017, having been promoted to Assistant Commissioner in December 2019. Kirsten was responsible for numerous aspects of the RMAC including oversight of conference championships,

business operations, officiating, awards production, diversity and inclusion, and scheduling.

Before joining the RMAC, she served as the Championships Assistant at the Big 12 Conference. During her time at the Big 12 she assisted with preparations for men's and women's conference championships and tournaments, conference meetings, awards, signage delivery, and the 2017 Women's Final Four.

McCowan received her Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education at the University of Oklahoma in 2016 and her Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology from West Texas A&M University in 2014. At WTAMU, McCowan was an NCAA Division II student-athlete for the Lady Buffs in volleyball as a middle blocker and in track and field, where she ran the 100m hurdles and threw shot put and javelin.

At the MVC, McCowan will work with the conference diversity, equity and inclusion program, have oversight of several conference championships, and she'll serve as staff liaison to the Men's and Women's Soccer, Softball, and Cross Country and Track and Field groups.



Katie Mucci **Assistant Commissioner,** **Digital Strategy**

Mucci started with the MVC in June 2018 and she handles all aspects of the league's creative and digital content with oversight on Conference strategies regarding all social media platforms. Mucci also manages all internal design projects, including graphic design for selected league publications and all Conference marketing and

promotional projects as well as supervision of the league's website. She oversees all league video content for both the website and MVC-produced television broadcasts.

Before coming to St. Louis, Mucci had been at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference since August 2014, where she has served as the main contact for each of the league's 18 sports. She designed all graphics for the SCAC, including the conference's 25th Anniversary logo and all championship logos, in addition to running

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all of the league's social media accounts. Notably, Mucci worked with various vendors to manage sales for conference apparel, as well as specialty championship gear, and served as the league's liaison at multiple SCAC championship events. She also served as an advisor for the conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Under her leadership, the SCAC became a model for Division III conferences in the areas of social and digital media, and Mucci has been recognized by CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors) numerous times for her achievements, including "Best in the Nation" citations for media guide covers in 2015 and 2016.

After being heavily involved with CoSIDA throughout her career, Mucci was named to the organization's Executive Board of Directors in July 2021. She also serves on the Young Professionals Committee, after spending five years as the Chair of the New Media Committee.

Throughout her career, she has received various national awards, including the "Rising 25 Award Winner" by Front Office Sports/Teamwork Online and CoSIDA's "Rising Star" Award.

A Texas native, Mucci is a 2014 graduate of Northern Colorado, where she served as a sports information intern her senior year in 2013-14. She earned her degree from UNC in Journalism and Mass Communications with an emphasis in public relations and advertising, and Mucci also has a minor in business administration.



Kristin Swederska
Assistant Commissioner,
Sports Administration

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Kristin Swederska starts her 13th season at the Missouri Valley Conference after serving as a media relations intern for swimming & diving, track & field and tennis in 2009-10 and becoming full-time in 2010.

At The Valley, Swederska oversees the operations of the 17 conference championships, including men's and women's basketball, handles the conference awards programs, as well as the Elite 17 program, is the officiating liaison to all six officiating programs and manages the student-athlete gift program.

In 2013, she was the assistant tournament director for the NCAA 2nd/3rd Round Men's Basketball Tournament in Kansas City (hosted by the Valley), served in that same capacity for an NCAA 2nd/3rd Round Men's Basketball Tournament at Scottrade Center in St. Louis in March of 2014, the NCAA 1st/2nd Round Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis in March of 2016, and the NCAA Men's Basketball Midwest Regional in Kansas City in 2019 and the NCAA Men's Basketball 1st/2nd Round in St. Louis in March of 2020 which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swederska comes to the Missouri Valley Conference after serving as an intern for the St. Louis Sports Commission, where she was actively involved in planning, coordinating and marketing of different events - most notably the annual Arch Rivalry Football Game (Missouri vs. Illinois at the Edward Jones Dome).

As an undergrad student at the University of Missouri, Swederska served two years as a RecSports Assistant Manager, where she promoted facilities and programs and managed a team of supervisors and officials for seven different sport programs.

She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in business administration from Mizzou in May 2009, and completed her master's degree in sports management at Lindenwood University in St. Louis in May 2010. She and her husband Quin reside in St. Louis County and have one son (Zach) and one dog (Copper).



Angie Allen,
Assistant to the Commissioner,
Special Events

Allen graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a minor in both business and leadership studies. During her time at Kansas, she was a member of the rowing team and was a three-time member of the Academic All-Big 12 Team.

After her athletic and academic career ended at the University of Kansas, Allen served as the Big 12 Conference Championships Assistant where she assisted in the administration of regular season duties and event management of championships in all sports. She also coordinated the Conference's signage and décor for the Big 12 Olympic sport championship events.

Prior to joining the Missouri Valley Conference, Allen obtained a master's degree in Sport Law and Business from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She concurrently served as the Olympic sports graduate assistant for the Sun Devils where she aided in team travel and budget management for various teams. Allen also has experience working for a collegiate consulting firm named The PICTOR Group. In this role she managed social media marketing efforts and assisted partners on a variety of projects and studies.

At the MVC, Allen serves as executive assistant to the Commissioner and oversees special projects, which includes the league's annual Hall of Fame ceremony in St. Louis, sport oversight of men's and women's golf, coordination of travel arrangements, meeting support, and other duties as assigned.



Nathaniel Gale,
Assistant Director for
Communications, Digital Strategy

Prior to his arrival at The Valley in August of 2021, Gale served in Florida Tech's Athletic Communications department since September 2015 and was promoted to assistant director in 2018, where he stayed until his departure in August 2021. In his time with the Panthers, Gale oversaw three SSC Championship teams and four NCAA Championship appearances. He has also helped promote individual honors for his various teams across multiple publications. His work experience outside of Florida Tech consists of the 2017 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. During the event, he assisted the Central Florida Sports Commission (now Greater Orlando Sports Commission) with the opening two rounds.

Gale also spends time working with the Minority Opportunity Athletic Association (MOAA) as a Symposium Committee member, which helps assemble their annual symposium content.

Gale graduated from Florida Institute of Technology in July 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Sports Management and a Master of Business Administration-Marketing in May 2021.

At the MVC, Gale manages communications for men's and women's cross country, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field, women's soccer, women's tennis and softball. In addition to his communication role, He helps spearhead the league's social media campaign.

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Russell Susuki, Director of Marketing, Corporate Fulfillment

Russell Susuki was hired as Director of Marketing/Corporate Fulfillment in August 2021.

Susuki is coming to the MVC after spending a year at Rapsodo in St. Louis, Mo., as a Marketing Associate. At Rapsodo, Susuki oversaw many digital marketing efforts including email and SMS text

message marketing, customer journey automations and Amazon digital advertising.

Previously, he was a marketing graduate assistant at MVC-member Illinois State University where he developed and executed marketing campaigns for volleyball and baseball, had game presentation duties for men's basketball, women's basketball, volleyball and baseball, and oversaw Reggie's Kid's Club program.

Susuki earned his bachelor's degree from Maryville University of St. Louis in 2018 and his master's degree in Sport Management from Illinois State in 2020.

In addition to serving stints as a sports marketing intern at St. Louis-based Rawlings and as a ticket sales agent for the St. Louis Cardinals, Susuki was a sponsorship property assistant for Missouri Valley Conference Sports Properties (September 2015-May 2016). He has served as the Social Media Chair for the Coaches vs. Cancer Holiday Tournament in St. Louis since October 2017, helping raise money for the American Cancer Society.

At the MVC, Susuki's primary focus is on marketing oversight, coordination of corporate fulfillment for sponsorships generated by the Conference and league's marketing media-rights holding partner, coordination of the Coach of the Year Luncheon during the annual men's basketball tournament in St. Louis and support of the overall involvement with ESPN and network partners.



Steve Williams MVC Sports Properties

Steve Williams serves as the General Manager - Missouri Valley Conference Sports Properties. Steve oversees all of the efforts surrounding sponsorship of the Missouri Valley Conference Championship events. In this role, he and his team at MVC Sports Properties work directly with local, regional and national brands to create integrated marketing opportunities

to help them drive revenue and grow their brands.

Steve spent 15+ years in broadcast media in St. Louis in a number of sales and sales management capacities. Steve is a Southeast Missouri State University grad and lives with his wife and two children in Kirkwood, Mo.



Elliott Black MVC Sports Properties

Elliott Black was hired as Manager-Business Development at MVC Sports Properties in September of 2018. In the role, he works directly with local, regional and national brands to create integrated marketing opportunities to help them drive revenue and grow their brands.

Prior to joining the MVC Sports Properties team, Elliott worked for Saint Louis FC/Saint Louis Scott Gallagher as the Manager of Corporate Partnerships. Elliott is a Central Methodist University grad, where he played basketball. Elliott lives with his wife Brooke in Manchester, Mo.



Eddie Jackson Coordinator of MBB Officials

Eddie Jackson is in his 12th year as Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials.

A native of Jacksonville, Ark., Jackson worked in nine NCAA Tournaments since his first appearance in the national championship tournament in 1996. Overall, he advanced to work in both the NCAA Tournament regional semifinal and regional championship rounds during his

illustrious career, and he has also worked in numerous conference tournaments and league championship games.

Jackson was employed in higher education and intercollegiate athletic administration since 1982. He served as Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., from 2006 until his retirement in 2017. He previously served in an administrative capacity from 1988-2000 at Northeastern (Okla.) State University. For the past 19 years, Jackson has served as Commissioner and Supervisor of Men's Officials for the Bi-State Athletic Conference now the OCAC (Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference), a 12-member National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I league based in Oklahoma. In addition, Jackson is the Associate Coordinator of the Men's Basketball Officiating Consortium for NCAA DI leagues in the Big 12, Conference USA, Southland and Ohio Valley Conferences. Jackson is also Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials for NCAA II leagues for the MIAA (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) and the GAC (Great American Conference).

In August 2016, he was selected to a 4-year term to serve on the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, and he currently serves on the NCAA Mechanics Committee.

Jackson was inducted into the Oklahoma Officials Hall of Fame in July 2018.

Jackson is a 1981 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, and he received a Master of Science degree in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern State University in 1988. He is married to the former Jennifer Ham and they have two children: Lauren and Carter.

MVC Staff/NCAA Rules Changes

Women's Basketball Officiating Consortium (WBOC)

The Women's Basketball Officiating Consortium (WBOC) begins its 16th year as a multi-faceted and enhanced officiating service for all of the member institutions.

The WBOC was officially launched on July 1, 2002, when the Big Ten Conference, Conference USA, Horizon League, Mid-Continent and Great Lakes Valley Conference partnered together to create a program that focuses on the identification, recruitment, evaluation, training, education and assignment of officials on a year-round basis. The WBOC aligned with the Mid-American Conference prior to the 2005-06 season and the Missouri Valley Conference in 2006-07.

The WBOC has established a cohesive and effective system for evaluation and observation of women's basketball officials with its ultimate goal being excellence in officiating. From a pool of nearly 300 officials, the WBOC will coordinate the assignment of officials for all MVC games - including exhibition, non-conference, conference and tournament contests.

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rules changes are effective with the 2021-22 season.

Rule 1-19.2 (Shot clock) – To permit but not require tenths of a second to be displayed on the shot clock.

Rule 1-23.1 (Undershirts) – To permit long-sleeved undershirts or compression shirts under the jersey. A long-sleeved undershirt/compression shirt may have one manufacturer's logo meeting the size restriction of Rule 1-25.2.

Rule 2-10.9 (Replacement of a player) – To establish the sounding of the horn 20 seconds before the expiration of time to replace a disqualified player or an injured player.

Rule 2-11 and 7-4.1 (Out of bounds) – To establish that when the ball goes out of bounds during jump balls where possession is not initially obtained that the shot clock will be set to 20 seconds when the throw in is in the front court and 30 seconds if it is in the back court.

Rule 9-15.2 (Basket interference) – To permit official's discretion in determining basket interference when a player touches the net.

Rule 10-1 Penalty f (Double/simultaneous fouls) – To establish when double fouls or simultaneous fouls occur, there shall be no free throws awarded when the penalty for each foul is equal.

Rule 10-2.2.a (Penalty Art. 2.a) (Starting lineup) – To permit officials to penalize failure to supply the names of the five starting players before the ten-minute mark prior to the game until the end of the first half.

Rule 10-4.2.d (Live statistics) – To permit the transmission of live statistical data to the bench area for coaching purposes and to allow conferences to experiment with preloaded and live video on the bench during conference games and tournaments.

Rule 11-2.1.e.1 (Instant Replay) – To permit officials to use Instant Replay to determine which team caused the ball to be out of bounds but only when a call has been made in the last two minutes of the game.

Rule 11-2.1.e.3 (Instant Replay) – Following a monitor review for basket interference or goaltending, the game clock shall be reset to the time the violation actually occurred in cases when the official's call was correct. When the Instant Replay review indicates no violation has occurred, the game clock shall be reset to the time when the official thought the violation occurred.

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rules changes are effective with the 2021-22 season.

Rule 1-7.1 (Three-Point Field-Goal Line) – To move the three-point line to the NCAA men's/FIBA distance of 22 feet, 1 3/4 inches from the center of the basket to the outside edge of the three-point field-goal line and 21 feet, 7 7/8 inches in the corners.

Rule 2-1.2 (Officials' Uniform) – To change the officials' uniform to a gray and white striped shirt with black side panels, black raglan-style sleeves with blue accents and black pants.

Rule 2-11 (Duties of Shot-Clock Operator) – When an inadvertent whistle occurs during a try for goal, the shot clock is set or reset based on the location of the ball and the team favored by the alternating-possession arrow.

Rule 3-6.2 (Substitutions) – Delete the prohibition for substitutes who report after the replacement of a player who is required to be replaced due to disqualification, injury or blood, or a lost, irritated, or displaced contact from entering the game. This does not apply to the immediate replacement required when a timeout has been granted in order to keep a player in the game.

Rule 5-14.10.c and .d (Timeouts) – To permit an instant-replay review to trigger the electronic-media timeout in each period or the floating second half electronic-media timeout.

Rule 10-12.2.a.1 and .2 (Administrative Technical Fouls) – To reduce the penalty from two free throws to one for an institution not having a properly marked division line and center circle, or a proper game-clock display, red light/LED lights, and mounted shot clock.

Rule 10-12.2.c.2 and .3 (Administrative Technical Fouls) – To limit officials' enforcement of illegal uniforms (game jersey and shorts) to an illegal number (i.e., 8) and the failure of a team to wear contrasting uniform colors. Other illegalities (i.e., color of the number, size of logos/patches, etc.) will be enforced by the institution's conference office.

Rule 10-12.4.b (Electronic Transmission of Data to the Bench Area) – To permit the transmission of live statistical data to the bench area for coaching purposes and to allow conferences to experiment with live video on the bench during conference games and tournaments.

Rule 11-1.1 (Courtside Replay Equipment) – To permit officials to use a stopwatch that is embedded in the instant-replay equipment as long as the video is unaltered and is played at normal game speed.

Rule 11-2.1.b.4 (Instant Replay) – To change the time when a review occurs when determining whether a try was released prior to the expiration of the shot-clock period. Similar to the review for whether a goal is worth two or three points, the review will take place during the next electronic-media timeout, except after the last electronic-media timeout of the fourth period or the entire extra period when it must be reviewed before the ball becomes live following the successful goal.

Rule 11-2.1.d and .e; 5-14.1 (Instant Replay) – Instant Replay: (a) In the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and last two minutes of any extra period, officials may review who caused the ball to be out of bounds regardless of the number of players involved provided a ruling was made for an out of bounds. (b) At any time during the game, a coach may challenge the ruling of an offensive foul or a blocking foul for being within the restricted-area arc when the play involves the location of players involved in a lower defensive box/restricted area play. When the ruling is not reversed, the coach is charged a timeout. (c) At any time during the game, a coach may challenge the ruling of a successful goal when a foul is committed by a player without the ball or on a player without the ball (i.e., "a foul away from the ball"). When the ruling is not reversed, the coach is charged a timeout. Officials may use instant replay on their own in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and last two minutes of any extra period.